CHAPTER 10

KING'S GAME ORIGIN

STORY BY NOBUAKI KANAZAWA ART BY [illegible]TA YAMADA

WHUD
GR-
GRAND-MA!
THMP
DAD!
DAA-AAD!
HELP GRAND-MA!

SHE'S AL-READY... STOPPED BREATH-ING...
DAD... GOTTA TELL DAD...
SPAT
SPAT
DRIP
DRIP
YESTER-DAY SHE WAS ALL SMILES... AND NOW...

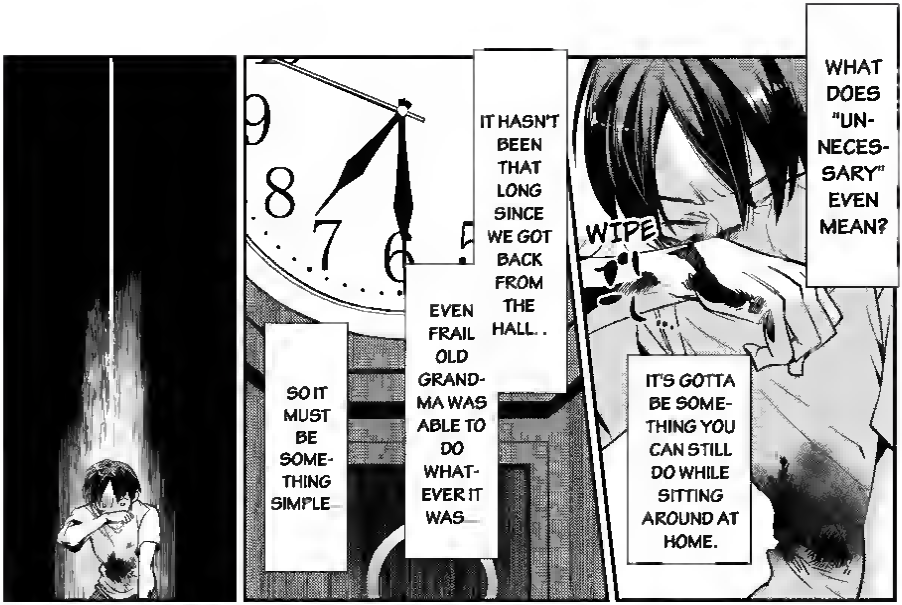
DAD...?
WOBBLE
.....?
TRIP
!
SPLAT
DA—

あ
AA-
あ
AAAH-
あああAAAAAAAA

D...
DAD
NO... NOT YOU TOO... WHY...
PLIT
PLIT
NGH
HNN
NH
WHY DID DAD AND GRAND-MA DIE?!
AND ALL THIS BLOOD... IS THIS SUPPOSED TO BE "EXSAN-GUINA-TION"...?
DID THE KING PUNISH THE TWO OF THEM?

BUT SOMEHOW THEY DID SOMETHING "UNNECESSARY"...

...AND THE KING KILLED THEM FOR IT.


WHAT DOES "UNNECESSARY" EVEN MEAN?
WIPE
IT'S GOTTA BE SOMETHING YOU CAN STILL DO WHILE SITTING AROUND AT HOME.
IT HASN'T BEEN THAT LONG SINCE WE GOT BACK FROM THE HALL..
EVEN FRAIL OLD GRANDMA WAS ABLE TO DO WHATEVER IT WAS...
SO IT MUST BE SOMETHING SIMPLE...

THAT ANYONE CAN DO...

WHAT IF NATSU-KO DID IT TOO?!
SHIVER..!!
DRIP
DRIP
NA
NA
NATSU-KO!
RATTLE

IT'S NOT MINE.
Y-YOU THERE! ARE YOU HURT?!
YOU'RE COV-ERED IN BLOOD!
IT'S MY GRAND-MA'S... AND FA-THER'S.
THE TWO OF THEM ARE INSIDE. THEY COL-LAPSED.
A-ALL RIGHT, YOU STAY PUT!
!
HM
LIAAAA
AAAAH
URK

S-STAY RIGHT THERE!
HURK
?!
KHH
I NEED TO REPORT THIS!
STEP
NATSUKO...
EVERYONE!
HMPH!
TURN

HOPEFULLY NO ONE ELSE HAS DONE "SOMETHING UNNECESSARY..."
S-SUZUKO!
OH, KAZUNARI-CHAN!
WHAT HAPPENED? YOUR SHIRT'S ALL BLOODY, DID YOU GET HURT?
TAK
TAK
THIS ISN'T...
NEVER MIND.
SUZUKO, HOW IS RYUUJI? AND FUMIKO-SAN?

....
THEY'RE FINE, THEY'RE BOTH AT HOME
POOR BROTHER'S FINALLY EATING ON HIS OWN AGAIN, TOO.
GOOD. THAT'S GOOD.
WHEW
MOM AND RYUUJI?

"SOMETHING UNNECESSARY" IS SOMETHING ANYONE CAN DO, EVEN SITTING AT HOME.
GOT IT?
OKAY SUZUKO, YOU NEED TO TELL YOUR MOM RIGHT AWAY.
WHATEVER THE KING REALLY MEANS, I NEED TO TELL EVERYONE WHAT LITTLE I DO KNOW.

...IS SOMEBODY GONNA DIE AGAIN?
CLENCH
YES. I DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHAT IT MEANS, BUT EVERYONE IS IN GRAVE DANGER.
SOMETHING UNNECESSARY? LIKE IN THE KING'S LETTER?
REALLY? YOU PROMISE?
NO ONE ELSE WILL DIE.
I'M GONNA GO TELL EVERYONE IN THE VILLAGE.
IT'LL BE OKAY, SUZUKO.

O-OKAY, GOOD!
JUST FINE!
SHE'S JUST A KID, I DON'T WANNA SCARE HER.
Y-YEAH... IT'LL ALL BE FINE.
BUT...
I REALLY...
...HATE THE KING.

SHAKE
SHAKE
SUZUKO.. RYUUJI GOT HURT BECAUSE OF ME...
IF I'D JUST CLIMBED THE CLIFF—
NO KAZU-NARI-CHAN, IT WASN'T YOUR FAULT!
RYUUJI GOT HURT BECAUSE OF HIM TOO...
I HATE HIS GUTS!
IT'S ALL BECAUSE OF THE KING'S GAME!
HE SHOULDN'T BE MAKING EVERYONE PLAY SUCH A MEAN, SCARY GAME!

SOB
SOB
SNIFF
SUZU-KO...
SOB
SNIFF
SNIFF
SUZUKO, YOU GO HOME AND TELL YOUR MOM AND RYUUJI WHAT I TOLD YOU.
OKAY?
I NEED TO GO TELL THE REST OF THE VIL-LAGE.
OH.. OKAY...
I WISH THE STUPID KING WAS DEAD!

KAZU-NARI-CHAN, YOU'RE ALL RED...
THAT'S FUNNY...
PLIT
HU... HUH ?
PLIT
PLIT
UH... OH—
BLEUUUUGH
SUZU-KO... Y-YOU'RE...

SU-
SUZU-KO!
WOBBLE
FLOP
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
IT'S JUST LIKE GRAND-MA...
SHE'S SO LIGHT... ALL THE BLOOD IN HER BODY JUST POURED OUT...

GOD-DAMNIT, SHE'S JUST A KID!
THIS IS TOO MUCH!
YOU'RE AN EVIL, HEART-LESS BASTARD, KI—
GASP
KI-

I WISH THE STUPID KING WAS DEAD!
SUZUKO WAS PUNISHED A MOMENT AGO.
MEANING SHE DID SOMETHING "UNNECESSARY."
WHAT DID SHE DO?
CRY?
THAT CAN'T BE IT, I CRIED WHEN I SAW GRANDMA...
IT HAD TO BE SOMETHING ELSE

SHE INSULTED THE KING?!
HE KILLED HER OVER SOME-THING SO PETTY?
GULP
PAT
I'LL BE BACK SOON
WAIT HERE AND REST.. SUZUKO.
STEP
TWIRL
TWIRL
TWIRL

I HAVE TO WARN THEM.
THE WHOLE VILLAGE COULD DIE THIS TIME!
HURRY...
IN THIS SITUATION ANYONE AND EVERYONE WILL BE CURSING THE KING.
NATSUKO!
AUNT YUMIKO!
H-HEY—

夏子!
NATSUKO!
OH...
KA-
KAZU-
NARI...
MOM...
MOM
IS...

SHE MUST'VE INSULTED THE KING TOO...
IN... INSULTED... THE KING?
DAMN
THE KING...
YES! THAT'S THE "SOMETHING UNNECESSARY"!
NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, DON'T SPEAK ILL OF THE KING!

AUNT YUMIKO DID JUST THAT BEFORE SHE STARTED BLEEDING, RIGHT?
Y-YES
JUST A MINUTE AGO, SHE WAS SAY-ING
SHIT, I KNEW IT...
AND NOW IT'S BEEN PROVEN IN THE WORST WAY.
ROLL
YOU THERE, WHAT'S THE MEAN-ING—
AAAAAH

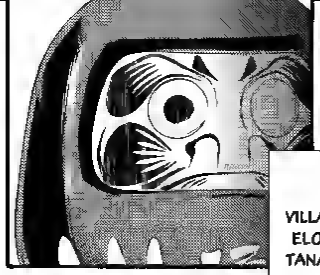
SHE WAS PUNISHED BY THE KING...
SAME THING HAPPENED TO MY DAD AND GRANDMA.
SHIGEKI-SAN AND UME-SAN TOO?!
AND SUZUKO...
I HEARD PEOPLE SCREAMING IN THE DISTANCE ON MY WAY OVER HERE, TOO.
PROBABLY MORE DEATHS.
LISTEN, WE HAVE TO WARN THE VILLAGE!

"SOMETHING UNNECESSARY" MEANS "INSULTING THE KING"!
ANYONE WHO MOCKS OR SPEAKS ILL OF HIM GETS DRAINED OF ALL THEIR BLOOD!
SPREAD THE WORD THAT PEOPLE ABSOLUTELY CAN NOT SAY ANYTHING BAD ABOUT HIM!
R-RIGHT, I GOT IT!
YOU TWO STAY HERE
I'LL CALL FOR BACKUP RIGHT AWAY.

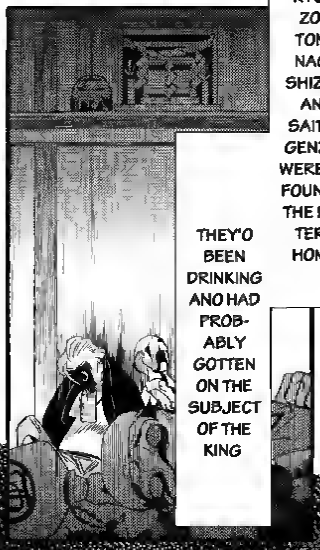
DRIP
DRIP
DRIP
FIRST MOM...
AND NOW...
I'M SO SORRY...IF I'D JUST REALIZED IT SOONER...
NA-TSU-KO...

WHY...
WHY IS THIS HAPPEN-ING...
SNIFF

DOUJIMA-SAN MOVED QUICKLY TO TELL EVERYONE WHAT THE KING'S ORDER REALLY MEANT.
BUT IT WAS TOO LATE... MANY HAD ALREADY DIED BEFORE WORD COULD REACH THEM.



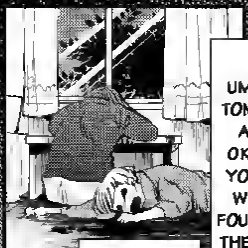
VILLAGE ELDER TANAKA KYUUZOU, TOMINAGA SHIZUO, AND SAITOU GENZOU WERE ALL FOUND IN THE LATTER'S HOME.



THEY'D BEEN DRINKING AND HAD PROBABLY GOTTEN ON THE SUBJECT OF THE KING

NAKAMURA KAZUYUKI, WHO LOST HIS WIFE HISAKO IN THE RIGGED LOTTERY, AND HIS FATHER-IN-LAW KOUSABUROU.

THE POLICE FOUND KAZUYA STANDING OVER THEIR BODIES AND MANAGED TO SAVE HIM...



UMEDA TOMOKO AND OKADA YOSHIE WERE FOUND AT THE FORMER'S HOME

BUT KAZUYA WAS SO TRAUMATIZED HE REFUSED TO SPEAK.

TOMOKO WAS STILL GRIEVING OVER HER DAUGHTER SUZUYO'S SUICIDE AND YOSHIE PROBABLY INSULTED THE KING TO MAKE HER FEEL BETTER.

ELEVEN PEOPLE INSULTED THE KING IN TOTAL, AND DIED AS A RESULT.
HOW LONG WILL WE BE FORCED TO PLAY THIS MAD GAME?
THERE ARE ONLY TWELVE VILLAGERS LEFT.